

Gallaudet Fact—

Q. For what was Kendall Hall first used?

- A. The college cafeteria and main lecture hall
- B. The Columbia Institution's grade school
- C. The president's residence while House One was being built
- D. The first student dorm on campus

Answer on page 2.

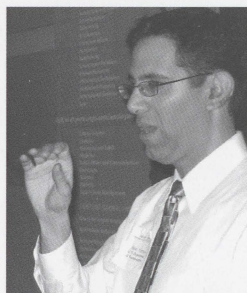


On March 25, 12 university administrators from Iraq visited Gallaudet and met with deans and administrators as part of a State Department sponsored tour of the United States. According to the Iraqi visitors, their country has little experience educating deaf people and people with disabilities, and they asked the Gallaudet representatives to share their knowledge. The Gallaudet educators gave them an overview of the University and shared its philosophy that deaf people want only to have the same opportunities as everyone else, and achieving this requires the empowerment that education provides. The possibility of establishing a partnership between Gallaudet and Iraqi educators was discussed, and options mentioned to help educate deaf Iraqis included uplinking Gallaudet lectures and courses, establishing an exchange of faculty between Gallaudet and Iraqi universities, and sending a team of deaf and hearing Iraqis to Gallaudet as special students who could go back and share what they learn.

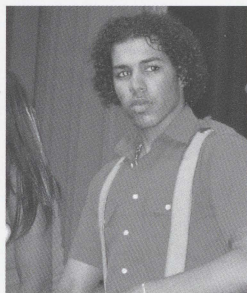
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Jenna Misko-Smith from the Indiana School for the Deaf is Miss Deaf Teen America 2008.



Allon Yomtov speaks with students at the Career Center's spring Internship and Job Fair.



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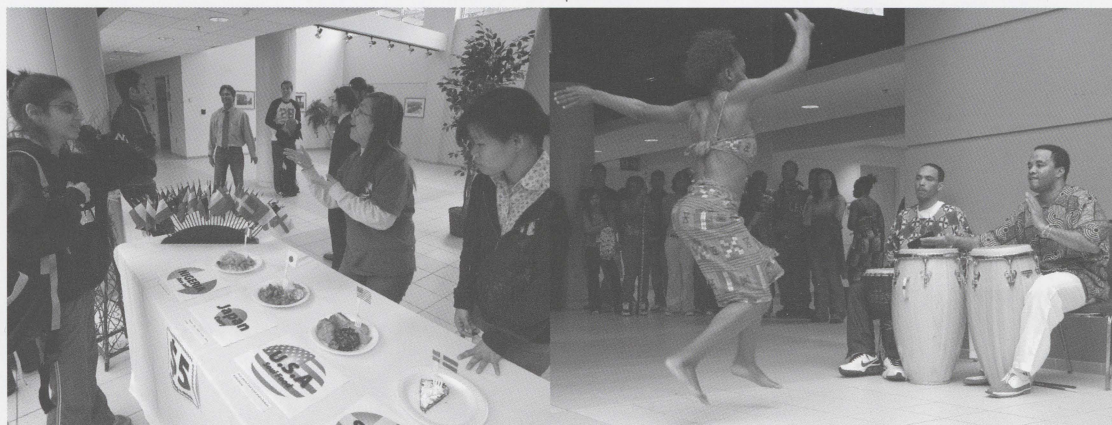
Omar Rodriguez was one of the MSSD student dancers interviewed by ABC for a segment on "Good Morning America."



Fadumo Korn, author of *Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival*, was a special guest at the March 26 Turn-A-Page Together event.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Celebration offers a taste of Gallaudet's international community



International Week sights and flavors: (LEFT) Gallaudet student Salima Ali (left) discusses the international food options for sale with English Language Institute students Angel Lam and Noppawan Thamsiriboon. (RIGHT) An MSSD student dances to the beat of professional drummers in the Marketplace.

A celebration of Gallaudet's International Awareness Week brought dancing, dignitaries, and international delicacies to campus on March 11. The dances, which showcased Afro-Cuban style, came care of MSSD students and professional drummers; the dignitaries included the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea, and the Counselor/Head of Chancery of the Embassy of the Republic of Benin, who attended presentations by Gallaudet students and staff; and the delicacies gave lunch-goers choices from African, Asian, European, and North American cuisines.

Part of the festivities, which were sponsored by the Office of International Programs and Services, was an English Language Institute (ELI) Open House. This event invited the community to the ELI offices on the second floor of HMB to get to know the students, staff, and instructors of the 23-year-old institution.

"This is an opportunity to know where ELI is, and how unique it is," said Beverly Buchanan, housing operations manager for Campus Life and a member of the International Awareness Week planning committee. "ELI offers the kind of interaction students need to build a foundation of ASL and English, she explained, and, in addition to that, 'it's an instant family.'"

Deirdre Noble Burchette, a vocational rehabilitation counselor in D.C., was one of the people there to learn more. "I have many American and International clients who want to learn or improve on their English," she said. ELI at Gallaudet was reputed to be a good place for that.

The ELI students on hand at the open house reception confirmed what Burchette had heard. "This is a great place for international students to come together," said Li Ping Wu, who came to Gallaudet from Shanghai, China. "I've had wonderful experiences here and learned so much." ■



Henry Tate (left), chair of Rotary District #7620, is shown with Gallaudet students who received \$2,000 scholarships from the organization, and representatives from clubs within District #7620 who awarded the scholarships, at Rotary Day 2008. The March 26 event also included a luncheon in "Ole Jim" and mock interviews at the Career Center conducted by Rotarians to give students invaluable experience that will prepare them when they meet with potential employers. Rotary District Governor Rich Carson stated that the clubs in #7620 want to expand scholarships and mock interview opportunities for Gallaudet students. He said that Rotary has been inspired to lend its assistance to Gallaudet over the years by Amos Kendall, whose philanthropy founded Gallaudet, and whose acts exemplify Rotary's motto—"Service Above Self." President Davila extended his gratitude to the Rotarians, and assured them they were making a good investment in assisting University students. He recalled that when he was a student at Gallaudet in the early 1950s, there were no scholarships or any other opportunities to benefit students in financial need. "Clearly times have changed for the better," said Dr. Davila. "We will never cease to provide assistance to students as we forge partnerships with corporations, organizations, and individuals." This year's scholarship recipients, and their sponsoring Rotary clubs, are: Hilary Allumaga (Bladensburg), Jung-Sun-An (College Park), Matthew Schindel (St. Mary's-LaPlata), Riccardo Ferracuti (Potomac), Kiombo Nsumbu (Towsontowne), and Juliann Bristol, Jenilee Fletcher, Lakshmi Ponappa, Muhammad Rubaivat, and Doris Zelaya (District #7620).

Mentoring program is on the Web

Ask successful professionals what propelled them to the top, and you will likely receive one answer again and again: a mentor. A mentor can act as a friend, a guide, an advisor, a visionary, and a cheerleader. They can give aspiring young people the edge they need to break through glass ceilings and their own doubts.

The mentoring program at Gallaudet, coordinated by Thuan Nguyen under the auspices of the

Center for Academic Programs and Student Services (CAPSS), seeks to give Gallaudet students that same advantage. New innovations in the program have the potential to make it more effective than ever, and Nguyen is seeking potential mentors to get involved.

This program existed in the past and was revived in 2001 by then-Associate Dean of CAPSS

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The Mr./Miss Deaf Teen America (DTA) Pageant, hosted by MSSD on March 8, drew 18 teens from across the country who came to show their talents, test their leadership skills, and make friends. This year's Mr. and Miss DTA are Colin Analco and Jenna Misko-Smith from the Indiana School for the Deaf. Other participating schools included: California School for the Deaf-Riverside, Illinois School for the Deaf, Maryland School for the Deaf, Miss/Mr. Deaf Michigan Pageant Association, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, South Carolina School for the Deaf, Texas School for the Deaf, and MSSD.

Mentoring

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Eileen Matthews. Nguyen, who had just received a master's degree in deafness rehabilitation counseling from New York University (NYU), was hired to run it. Nguyen has paired dozens of students with faculty, staff, and peers who have met to chat on a regular basis, offered ideas on where to apply for internships, jobs, or graduate school; written recommendation letters; or just offered an encouraging word when needed. From this experience, Nguyen has learned there is no specific profile for a program applicant. "Anyone can be a mentor," she said, "as long as he or she cares for students and strongly desires to see students succeed at Gallaudet and in life outside of Gallaudet. All they need is to be good at listening, have patience, and knowledge and life experiences that they are willing to share."

Nguyen knows first hand the importance of the mentor-mentee relationship. "I owe my thanks to my mentors for where I am today," Nguyen said, "because they all saw potential in me and helped me to do things I never thought I could do." She lists several mentors in her life, including Lindsay Dunn, manager of education and support services in CAPSS, Dr. Cheryl Wu, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, and her mother.

Nguyen credits Dunn with encouraging her as a senior to go to NYU and helping her apply when she did not think graduate school was in her future. Wu is

a more recent mentor, giving advice on Nguyen's professional endeavors that is always "spot-on," she said.

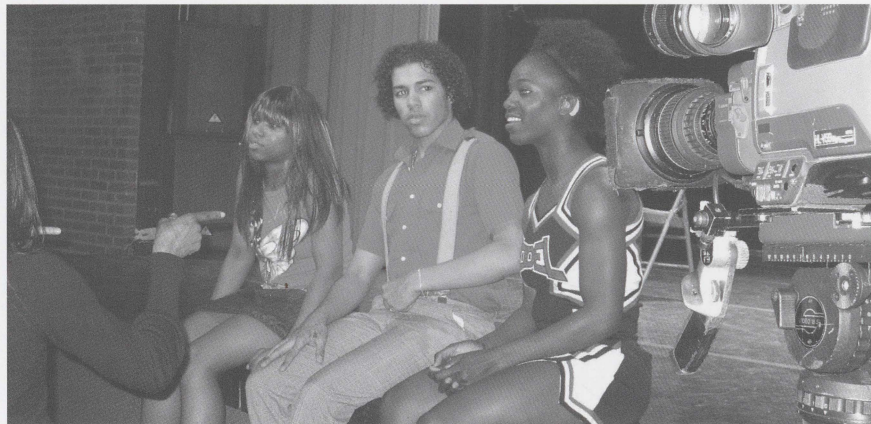
For anyone interested in sharing his or her wisdom, Nguyen is unveiling a new system that will make it easier to start helping. A new website, mentoring.gallaudet.edu, allows students to see potential mentors' information online, collects feedback, and incorporates video and photos. Nguyen can also communicate more easily with people in the program, she said, and let them know about upcoming campus-wide or mentoring program events.

Another perk is the visu-centric nature of the website. "We are a visual community," Nguyen, who was part of the team involved in the initial design of the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center, which is a visu-centric building. "It is also logical because deaf people are visu-centric and this gives us a chance to use our natural language of ASL via videos." She thanks Edgar (Bernie) Palmer, the associate dean of CAPSS, and Provost Stephen Weiner for making the new visu-centric website possible.

For anyone unsure of whether to get involved, Nguyen assures, "Mentoring is a very gratifying job—it is a tremendous asset to young people figuring out their lives, and it is a wonderful benefit to people in established careers because it allows them to give back to their college experiences or employers by helping the young people become good members of society and leaders in our deaf world." ■

Clerc Center Happenings

'Good Morning America' introduces KDES and MSSD dancers to national audience



MSSD student dancers interviewed by an ABC film crew for "Good Morning America" were (from left): Aameena Patterson, Omar Rodriguez, and Jene Kelly.

The ABC network's television show "Good Morning America" featured footage of KDES and MSSD student dancers performing on its March 24 program. The students appeared in a segment about deaf Oscar-winning actor and Gallaudet trustee Marlee Matlin's participation on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

ABC sent a camera crew and reporter to KDES and MSSD to interview students and film them dancing. They came to find out if Marlee Matlin was an inspiration to the students and to ask how deaf dancers learn their performance routines.

All of the students interviewed said they were inspired to work hard and continue their dancing. The MSSD students shared their techniques for learning dance steps with ABC staff: "We memorize all the dance moves, and we use counting to keep us on track, and we

practice often," said student Omar Rodriguez. Yola Rozynek, performing arts specialist for MSSD, told the reporter: "I would say that deaf people have to work a little bit harder in terms of making sure they are relying completely on the count as well as the rhythm."

For the dancing segments, the ABC crew filmed Kendall students rehearsing a hip-hop dance under the direction of Tara Downing, a family educator and dance teacher at KDES, and they filmed MSSD dancers performing "Classroom Antics," a selection from their recent winter dance concert. The crew was impressed with how the students use eye contact, counting, and teamwork to develop their dance skills.

The students all wished Ms. Matlin the best of luck in her bid to win the "Dancing with Stars" competition.

To view the film segment and read the article on ABC news, visit: <http://abc-news.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4511890>. A captioned version of the ABC film clips is available at: <http://bill-creswell.wordpress.com/2008/03/26/marlee-matlin-on-gma-3-24-captioned/> ■

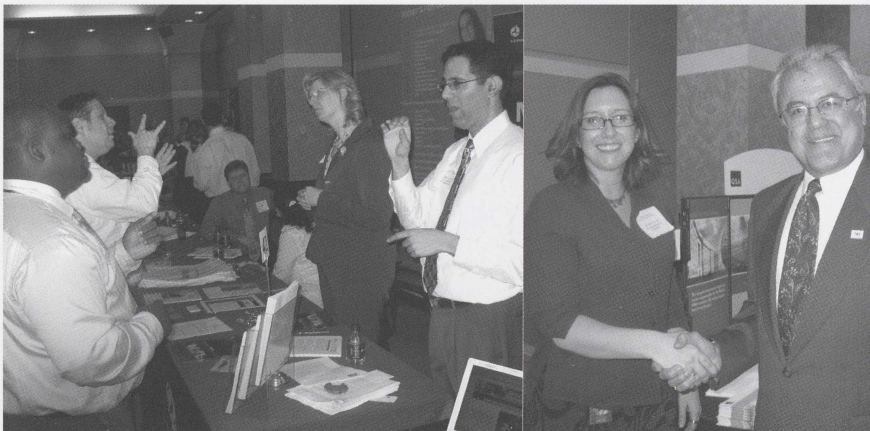
Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: B. The Columbia Institution's grade school

The grade school and college of the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind inhabited the same building until 1885, when the directors of the Institution decided to separate the identities of the grade school and college. At that time, the lower school was renamed the Kendall School for the Deaf and Kendall Hall was built to house it.

Among Ourselves

Gaurav Mathur, assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics; Amy Wilson, associate professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research; and alumnus Nickson Kakiri gave keynote addresses at the conference "Around the Deaf World in Two Days (It's a Small World): Sign Languages, Social Issues/Civil Rights, Creativity," held at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa. Deborah Chen Pichler, associate professor in the Department of Linguistics, also presented at the conference, giving a lecture on signing with an accent.



LEFT: Allison Yomtov of the Department of Transportation (DOT) discusses employment opportunities with student James Etheridge at the Career Center's spring Internship and Job Fair, held March 5. Alison Levy was also on hand to answer questions about DOT. RIGHT: While visiting the fair, President Davila shakes hands with Jennifer Croft, a disability policy advisor in the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

ON THE GREEN

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March events highlight “herstory”



Student Delia Lozano-Martinez leads a discussion on mother-daughter relationships as part of Gallaudet's Women's History Month celebration in March. Other participants (from left) were student Gloria Nathanson and her mother Karen Fuechtmann; Coordinator of Multicultural Student Programs (MSP) Elvia Guillermo; Tammi Jacobs and Na Su, MSP student assistants; and student Rachel Mazique.

Gallaudet took part in the national celebration of March as Women's History Month by holding events that explored the “herstory” of Gallaudet women over the years, female roles and relationships, and what it takes to be a successful student, professional, mother, daughter, and ally.

Student Delia Lozano-Martinez led a March 24 discussion about the relationships between mothers and daughters that touched on motherly intuition, home remedies, discipline, and many more topics.

On March 25, student researchers from Dr. Arlene B. Kelly's classes in the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies presented their findings on deaf “herstory”—the stories of women at Gallaudet through the years. Jeanine Wiesblatt was surprised by what she learned during interviews with alumni. As recently as the 1970s, female students were expected to drop out as soon as they got married, and few college-educated women found themselves outside of the home. Those who did were usually teachers of deaf students. Gallaudet did not have its first female professor, Kelly pointed out, until May (Martin) Stafford began to teach in 1895, more than 30 years after the school was founded. Nicole Zaffke painted a picture of what a Gallaudet woman student of the 1950s might look like at a typical Sunday dinner: unlike the denim-and-sweatshirt-clad women of today, these students would arrive in formal dresses, fancy hats, and gloves. The other students on the panel were Angelique Bynon and John Winstead.

On March 27, the campus community was invited for tea, conversation, and inspiration at a panel discussion featuring Dr. Angela McCaskill, research adminis-

trator for the VL2 Science of Learning Center; Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion; and Dr. Caroline Solomon, associate professor in the Department of Biology.

Fadumo Korn, an author and activist, also visited during the month. (For more on her visit, see photo and caption below.)

Campus Activities, Multicultural Student Programs, First Year Experience and Student Success, the Gallaudet Leadership Institute, and the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies teamed up to offer these events. ■



Fadumo Korn (left), the author of *Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival*, was the special guest at the Turn-A-Page Together program on March 26. Korn who lived in Somalia as a nomad until she was 16, underwent circumcision—female genital mutilation as it is called by its opponents—at age 7, a common practice in that society. The very painful experience (no anesthesia was used) left her so sick she fell into a coma, and scarred her emotionally as well as physically. Today, she lives in Munich, Germany, and is an outspoken advocate to stop harmful traditional practices such as this. Korn's visit to campus was sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs. (Also pictured is Korn's German-English interpreter.)

Campus Calendar

April

12—25th annual GCRC awards and recognition program, 3-6 p.m., GUKCH

13-15— Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) site visit, various times and locations

16—Undergraduate Awards Day ceremony, 4-6 p.m., GUKCH, Swindells Auditorium

17—Erase the Hate performance, 6 p.m., Foster Auditorium

18—Diversity Action Plan, individual or group interview, 9 a.m.-noon, by appointment

21—CAPSS Administrative Professionals Week kick-off, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., HMB E150

24— Gallaudet Golf Open, Cross Creek Golf Club, Beltsville, Md.

24-27—NBDA Eastern Regional Conference, GUKCH

25— Diversity Action Plan-individual or group interview, 9 a.m.-noon, by appointment; UnityFest, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Undergraduate Open House, all day

26-29—National Academic Bowl, GUKCH

Personnel Notes

Service awards for February

Five years:

Alexis McKenzie, administrative secretary, Office of the Dean, College of Professional Studies and Outreach; **Marilyn Mondia**, head housekeeper/cook, House One

Ten years:

Shirley Benjamin, administrative secretary, Art; **Sibila Munoz**, teacher aide, KDES; **Jimmy Riley**, grounds equipment mechanic, Grounds Services

Fifteen years:

Anjali Desai-Margolin, job search advisor, Career Center; **Shirley Tomlinson**, custodian, Custodial Services

Twenty years:

Blanche Drakeford, program evaluation specialist, Research and Program Evaluation; **Randy Edwards**, custodian, Custodial Services; **Ronald Faulkner**, lead electrician, Maintenance Services; **Susan Mather**, professor, Department of Linguistics

Twenty-five years:

Sandra Shell, supervisor, Custodial Services

Thirty years:

Lynne Payne, administrative secretary, History; **Margaret Simpson**, math teacher, MSSD Departments; **Laura Sweeney**, academic/career advisor, Academic Advising

New employees hired in February

Karen Evans, administrative secretary, Public Relations; **Lauren Huseby**, residential educator, Residence Education; **Kellie Irwin**, mental health counselor, Mental Health Center; **Stephanie Moore**, staff residential assistant, Residence Life; **Jeffrey Peterson**, archives technician, Library; **Gerald Pickering**, technical support specialist, Registrar; **Sara Stallard**, teaching fellow, MSSD Departments; **Sheri Youens-Un**, e-Learning facilitator, E-Learning

Promotions in February

Sherita Bolden, program support specialist, Gallaudet Interpreting Service; **Edward Hottle Jr.**, assistant athletic director/head football coach, Athletics; **Patricia Johnson**, administrative assistant, Office of the Associate Dean, Center for Academic Programs and Student Services; **Kafi Lemons**, administrative assistant, Academic Technology; **Bonnie Simmons**, administrative assistant, President's Office; **Barry White**, senior academic producer, TV and Media Production Services

Retirements in February

Denise Hanlon, President's Office; **Sheryl Johnson**, Office of the Dean, Graduate School and Professional Programs; **Holly Roth**, Office of the Dean, College of Professional Studies and Outreach

‘Open Your Eyes’ marks new coalescence of deaf theory

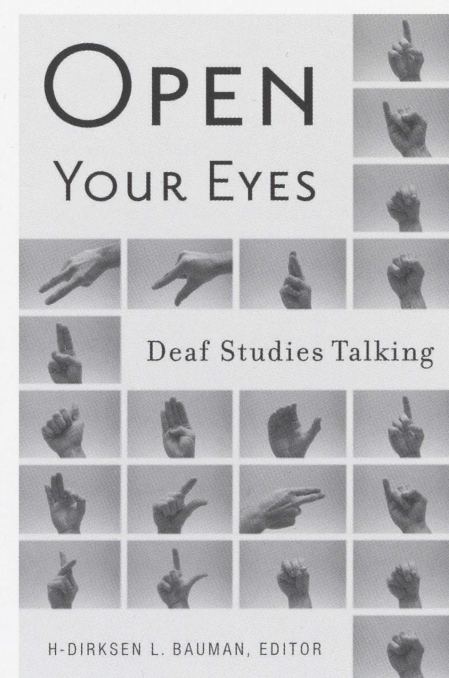


Image courtesy of University of Minnesota Press

Open Your Eyes: Deaf Studies Talking, edited by H-Dirksen L. Bauman, Deaf Studies professor, was recently published by University of Minnesota press. *Open Your Eyes* introduces readers to key concepts in deaf studies and an overview of the complex intersections of deaf identity, gender, race, sexuality, disability, and family. This is the first time that a book of this kind has been published.

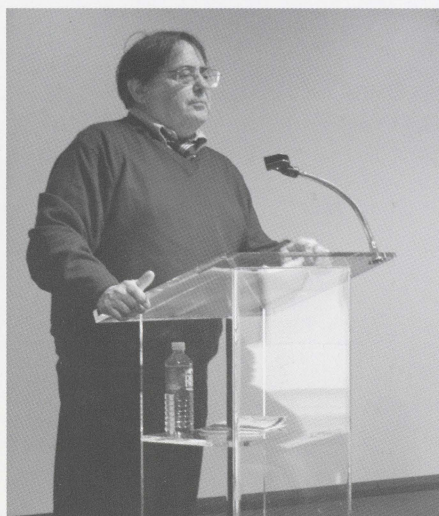
This work emerged out of the darkness of a power outage during the Deaf Studies Think Tank at Gallaudet University in the summer of 2002, just before Deaf Way II. The power went off on the entire grid for 30 hours and the blackout became a symbol of the deaf studies field, as the value of light increased and the participants in the think tank began to see things differently without power. The think tank, a three-day symposium sponsored by the National Endowment for the

Humanities, the Provost's Office, and the Gallaudet Research Institute, was the incubator of this book and many of the ideas within.

Open Your Eyes is the preliminary coalescing of deaf theory, which has the potential to make a significant contribution to the humanities, especially cultural studies. Ground-breaking topics in deaf studies such as transnationalism, sensory topics, Greek philosophy, identity, power, and language are addressed in this collection. People from diverse backgrounds—deaf, CODA, hearing—contributed to this book.

Contributors include: Ben Bahan, Douglas Baynton, Frank Bechter, MJ Bienvenu, Brenda Jo Brueggemann, Lennard Davis, Lindsay Dunn, Lawrence Fleischer, Genie Gertz, Hilde Haualand, Robert Hoffmeister, Tom Humphries, Arlene Blumenthal Kelly, Marlon Kuntze, Paddy Ladd, Harlan Lane, Joseph Murray, and Carol Padden. ■

Speakers illuminate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Dr. Noel Kaplowitz

In November 2007, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met in Annapolis, Md., with Middle Eastern leaders and others to discuss peace in the Middle East—particularly between Israelis and Palestinians. Agreements over which ethnic, political, and religious groups have sovereignty over the land and rights to govern have been elusive, and the meeting in Maryland's historic capital was the most recent in a long string of attempts to bring together Jewish Israelis and Palestinians to craft a sustainable peace.

In March, two speakers came to Gallaudet to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—Dr. Noel Kaplowitz, a professor of international relations and Middle Eastern affairs at the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Hatem Bazian, a senior lecturer in the departments of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies, and an adjunct professor of law at Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Their presentations were sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs.

Kaplowitz has conducted research that included hundreds of hours of in-depth interviews with Arab and Israeli leaders on their national self images, perceptions of each other, and attitudes toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. He has also been involved in Israeli politics. Bazian, who is originally from the Palestinian city of Nablus, moved to the United States to continue his education after finishing high school in Amman, Jordan. Bazian has been active in the movements for Palestinian rights and interfaith alliance in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The film *Time of Favor*, which shows some of the complexity of Israeli views on the conflict and the Israeli settlement movement, introduced Kaplowitz's part. He later gave a presentation on the cultural and historical context and his understanding of prevailing viewpoints.

Kaplowitz said he sees a strong national identity born not from the Jewish religion but the spirit of the 18th century Enlightenment period, which emphasized reason over religion. "Sometimes, in order to realize their rights, it is incumbent upon individuals to take these rights into their own hands," Kaplowitz said, summarizing this reasoning. It was the Jews' and the international community's responsibility to establish the state, he said, adding, "They don't

believe in God as a real estate agent." Still, he acknowledged that the religious minority has a powerful voice, especially in keeping areas of spiritual significance like the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The killing of millions of European Jews in the Holocaust during World War II—and the displacing of millions more—made an urgent need for a Jewish state, Kaplowitz said. If Israel had been created in 1938 instead of 1948, many have argued, vast numbers of Jewish lives would have been saved. The Jews could not allow such a tragedy to happen again. Having a state has given the Israelis land in a strategic location and a military, among other advantages. Israel has used this military to fight wars over territory in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973.

A two-state solution for the Palestinians and Israelis is widely supported but will take a struggle, Kaplowitz said. When he campaigned for Ehud Barak, a left-wing leader who served as prime minister from 1999-2001 and is now Israel's defense minister, some Israelis derided him. They said a leader who was willing to negotiate generously with Palestinians would divide Israel. Kaplowitz was not deterred. "The night that I found out he was elected was the second happiest day of my life," he said, saying it was surpassed only by the day his daughter was born. However, Barak's short time as prime minister did not produce peace.

The history of the Palestinian perspective, as presented by Dr. Bazian, began with a screening of *Occupation 101*, an award-winning documentary film on the current and historical causes behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The following day, Bazian gave a talk that began and ended with a photo of the Israeli West Bank barrier, a wall under construction by Israel within the West Bank area bordering Jordan. The wall, he argues, is not in the name of security, as Israel claims, but is part of a steady, ongoing process to illegally annex Palestinian land.

Israel and the West Bank is a relatively small area bordered by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Mediterranean Sea. Bazian explained that its history dates to 3500 B.C., when it was called "Land of Canaan." Over the centuries it has changed hands numerous times between conquering empires. The modern day conflict can be said to have arisen at the end of World War I when the region came under British rule. At that time, said Bazian, the population of the region was 5 percent Jewish, 95 percent Muslim and Arab, but the British opened the land to immigration by European Jews, and provided these settlers with military training and economic development, leaving the agrarian Palestinians at a disadvantage.

In 1947, the United Nations approved a plan to partition Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The Jews would get 56 percent of the territory, the Palestinians would get 42 percent, and Jerusalem—the remaining 2 percent—would fall under U.N. rule. The Palestinian leaders did not accept the deal, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War which, according to Bazian, left 750,000 Palestinians forcibly removed

from their homes and 53 villages demolished. The number of Palestinian refugees increased to 4.5 million following the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, also known as the Six Days' War, which resulted in Israel gaining control of the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. To this day, Bazian said, the struggle for sovereignty of these areas is the key to negotiating a peace process.

The Oslo Accords of 1993 called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip and West Bank and gave the Palestinians the right of self-government within those areas. The accords created a sense of hope from Israeli and Palestinian supporters, but there were many skeptics as well, and over the years the accords have fallen into increasing disfavor. Conditions have worsened for Palestinians, said Bazian, and their territory continues to be chipped away.

Today, the peace process is at a standstill, said Bazian. What is needed to make progress is a neutral arbitrator, but the United States is ineffective in this role



Dr. Hatem Bazian

because it is protecting its own interests in the area, using both Jews and Arabs as "chess pieces," he said. While Bazian doesn't foresee any change taking place with the current U.S. administration in power, he is optimistic about the future following the national elections this year.

Kaplowitz also said he has reason for hope. "These struggles are liable to take a long time," he said, but conceded that the peace process is "inching forward, slowly but surely." ■

NBDA Eastern Regional Conference to embody the theme 'Rising to a Higher Level'

The National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) will hold its second biannual Eastern Regional Conference at the Kellogg Conference Hotel April 24 to 27. The theme of the event is "Rising to a Higher Level," and it will be hosted by the District of Columbia Area Black Deaf Advocates (DCABDA) and co-sponsored by Gallaudet.

"Eastern Regional Black Deaf Advocates has been at the forefront of the struggle for access and equality for the black deaf community," said alumnus Fred Beam, president of NBDA and conference co-chair as well as entertainment coordinator for the conference. The organizers have created a lineup of workshops, speakers, and special events to reflect and further this role.

Senior Aaron Loggins, the public relations coordinator for the conference, predicts that the events will attract record numbers, drawing NBDA members and members of the deaf community from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

Night of the Stars, slated for April 25, will bring together several performers that alone draw crowds. They include Beam; the National Deaf Dance Academy; MSSD dancers; Miss Deaf America 2004 Tyese Wright; Miss Black Deaf America 2007 Janelle Thomas; Warren "Wawa" Snipes, a founding member of the dance group The Wild Zappers; film and Broadway actor Michelle Banks; and the Helix Boyz, a hip hop group formed at Gallaudet.

Other events focus on cultivating leaders and "growing role models," Loggins said. And there will be a strong emphasis on gaining knowledge as a vehicle for success.

"Education is key," Loggins said. In this spirit, all education majors at Gallaudet have been encouraged to attend the conference, and Loggins is scheduled to teach a leadership course in the Senior Program at MSSD.

The planning committee is composed primarily of Gallaudet faculty, staff, and alumni, and many of the featured presenters are Gallaudet graduates.

Organizers encourage anyone with an interest in the conference's themes to attend. To ensure that the cost does not limit participation, they have set the entry fee for the weekend at \$45-\$65, with a special family rate. Gallaudet is sponsoring the families of the students at the Clerc Center and their costs have been waived.

The DCABDA website offers more information and a registration form. ■



Dr. Ronald Dreher, chair of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, presents associate professor Kathryn (Kitty) Baldrige a certificate of appreciation for 30 years of service to Gallaudet.

Photo by Benjamin Baylor